

REMARKS:

- 1) A typographical error has been corrected in the specification. This amendment does not introduce any new matter. Entry thereof is respectfully requested.
- 2) The claims have been amended as follows. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior claim 7. Claim 7 has been canceled. The remaining dependent claims have been amended wherever necessary for proper conformance and dependency from the amended independent claim. A few minor clerical and editorial revisions have been made as well. These amendments do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.
- 3) Referring to section 5 on page 4 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in original claims 7 and 8 is appreciated. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claim 7. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 to 6, 8 and 9 should now be allowable.
- 4) Referring to section 4 on pages 2 to 4 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1 to 6 and 9 as anticipated by US Patent 4,435,012 (Kassai) has been obviated by the present amendment. Namely, amended independent claim 1 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of non-rejected claim 7. Thus, the rejection cannot be maintained and must be withdrawn.

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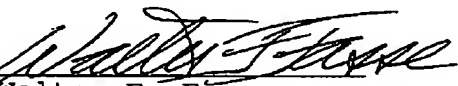
- 5) The additional prior art made of record requires no particular comments because it has not been applied against the claims.
- 6) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 6, 8 and 9, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenzou KASSAI et al.
Applicant

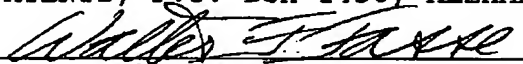
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Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: February 14, 2005

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